Product Attribute Database (PAdb)

Version 2.04 (update)

USER GUIDE for the PART ATTRIBUTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Prepared by Pricedex Software Inc. on behalf of

Autocare Association TECHNOLOGY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

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About this USER Guide

The purpose of this User Guide is to help you navigate through the process of submitting attribute candidates to the reviewers of the Product Attribute Database (PADB), for consideration for inclusion in the PADB.

About the PADB

The Product Attribute Database (PADB) is an Autocare Association initiative to create a standardized, coded library of Attributes for the most common PCDB Part Terminologies, to be used to convey objective information about a product's Form, Fit, Function and Performance characteristics.

What is the Product Attribute Database

The Product Attribute database (PAdb) is an automotive aftermarket industry standard reference database to be used in conjunction with the Product Information Exchange Standard (PIES). The PAdb standardizes the way product-specific performance and physical attributes are exchanged between trading partners. The PAdb defines the way trading partners exchange information about the form, fit and function of thousands of automotive products – making that information consistent and predictable across the industry.

Rich, complete and accurate product attribute information is an essential component of marketing any product successfully. All customers – professional shop and retail consumers – rely on robust product attributes to make informed decisions and select the most appropriate product for their needs. Performance and physical attributes address the objective differences between two similar products. This information enables customers to make informed and knowledgeable decisions, fully aware of the differences between similar products.

The PAdb offers the aftermarket industry the following advantages:

- Consistent product information is more accurate and useful to customers in decision-making
- Standardized product attributes reduce the burden of data management on the supply chain and lower costs
- A robust set of product attribute definitions will contribute to more effective marketing of automotive products, leading to increased sales, reduced returns and more satisfied customers

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What does the PAdb Contain

For the more popular and high-volume products in the industry-standard Product Classification database, the PAdb defines one or more "Styles" of the product as well as the valid "Attributes" related to the product. Attributes are further defined by "Type", "Valid Values" and other Metadata that ensures consistency and accuracy. Specifically, the PAdb contains attributes which deal with the working dimensions, material, color, and performance characteristics of a product. Performance characteristics could be rates of flow, horsepower, electrical characteristics, and many more types. A table containing a complete set of performance measurements is appended in this document.

What does the PAdb Exclude

The PAdb DOES NOT CONTAIN any attributes which are already defined in other Autocare Association Standards, such as the Aftermarket Catalog Enhanced Standard (ACES) or the Product Information Exchange Standard (PIES).

The PAdb also DOES NOT CONTAIN any attributes which might be considered subjective, such as product features, benefits, comparisons to other products. These type of attributes are considered Market Copy, and, as such, already have their own definitions in the PIES standard.

The PAdb also DOES NOT CONTAIN any attributes which might be considered proprietary, and expose formulations or engineering information.

It is the responsibility of suppliers to populate and provide Attribute information to their trading partners. The PAdb defines the method and data-types by product. But, the PAdb does not include the product attribute values for any specific supplier of automotive product.

Getting Access to the Part Attribute System

Your company must be a Paid Subscriber to the Product Attribute Database in order to have User Privileges on the Part Attribute Management System. Once you are a paid subscriber, the Autocare Association will issue you a Username and Password. You will also be asked to provide your e-mail address and telephone number for general and system-generated communications.

The URL for the system is http://ptattributes.pricedex.com.

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Logging In to the Part Type Attributes Database System

1. Open your web browser and type the following URL: http://ptattributes.pricedex.com
2. In the Main Screen, provide your User Name and Password assigned by the Autocare Association. For ease of use, click on the Checkbox to 'Remember my User Name'.

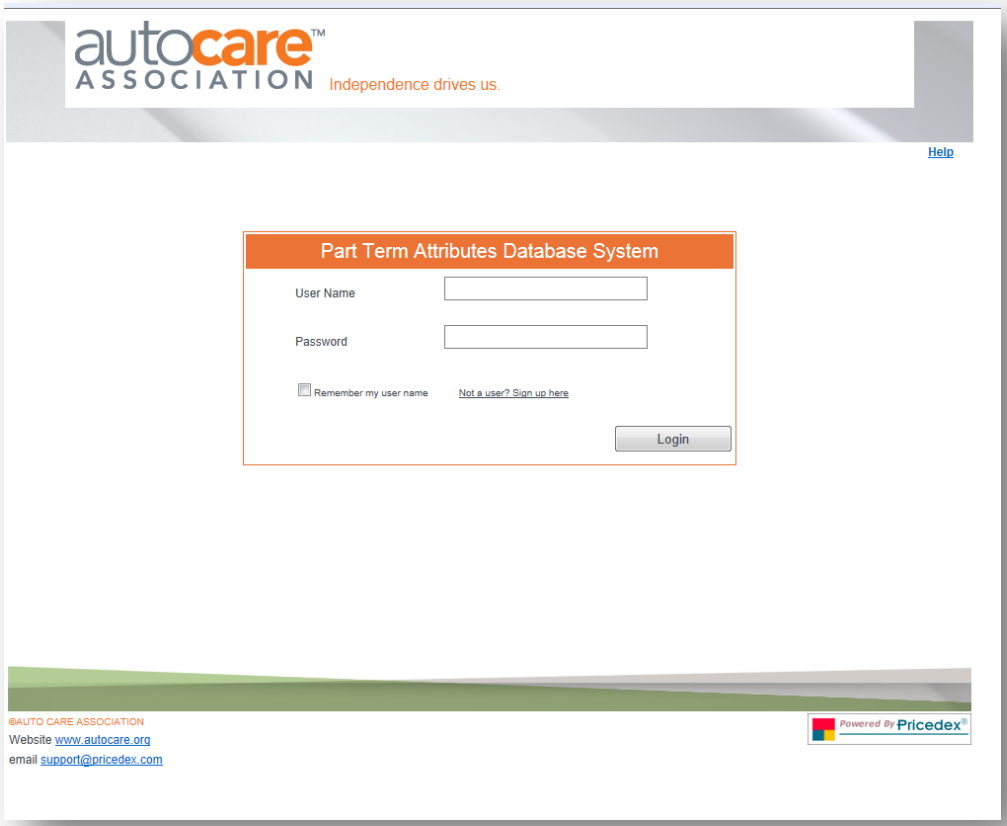

Figure 1 – The Login Screen

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What Can I Do? – the User Menu

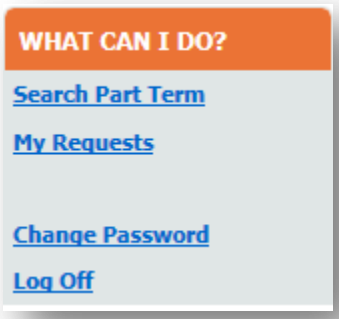

Figure 2 – The User Menu is found on the left frame of the Page. There are four specific functions. "Search Part Term" brings you to the 'Home Page' where you can start your attribute work.

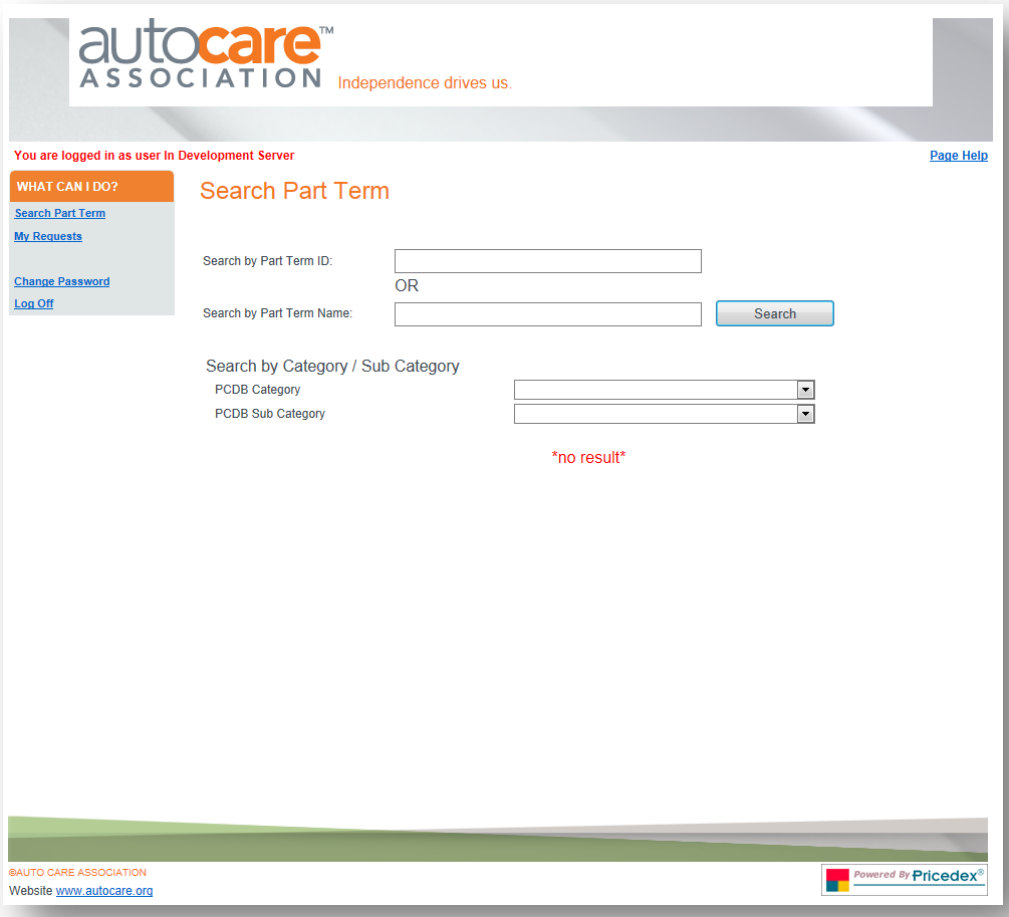

Figure 3 – The Search Part Term Page is your Home Page. In the top Left corner, you are identified as logged in. In the top Right corner is a link to Page Help, which gives you instructions and guidance in context to the Page you are on.

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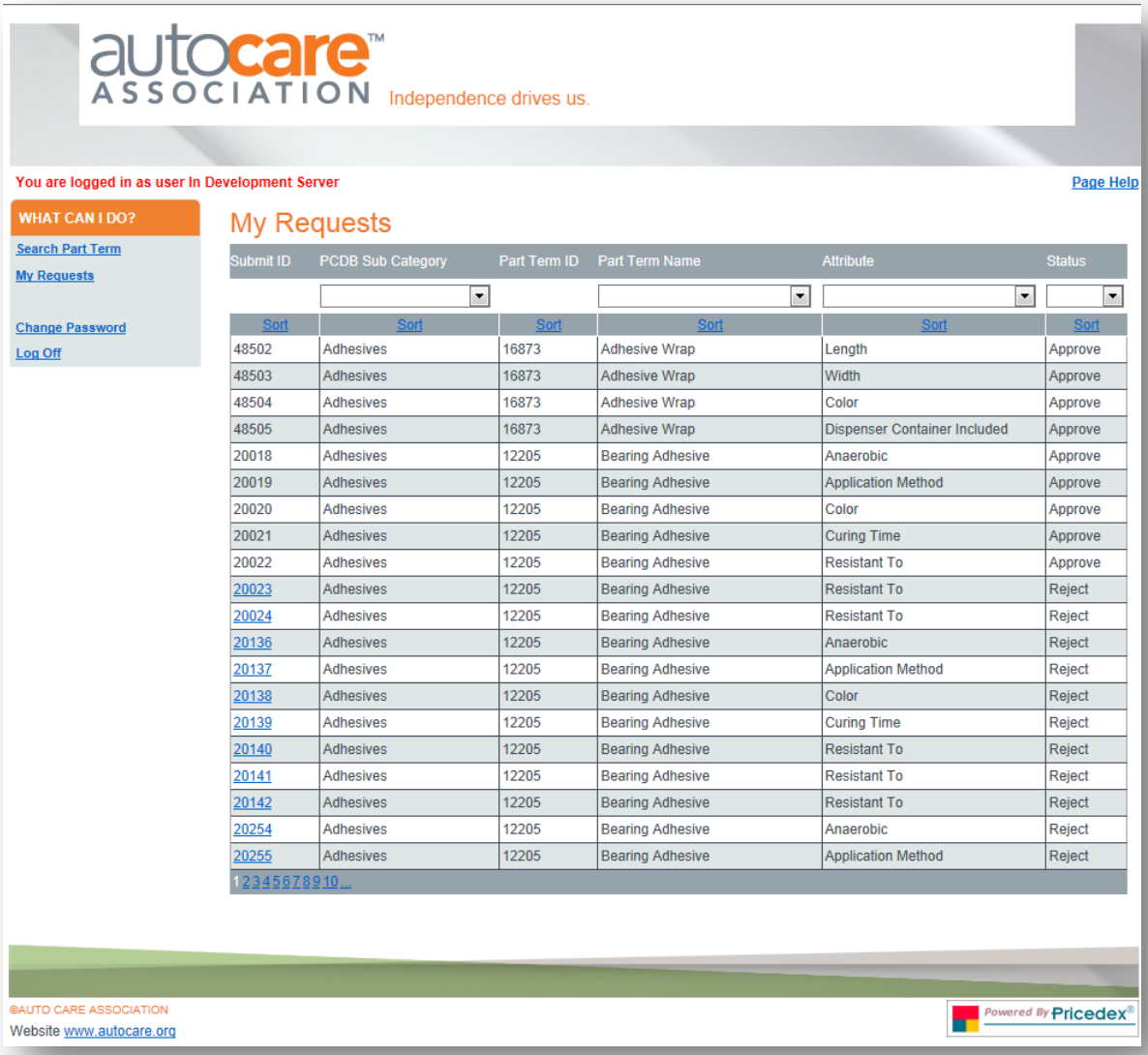
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Independence drives us.
You are logged in as user In Development Server
Page Help
WHAT CAN I DO?
Search Part Term
My Requests
Change Password
Log Off
My Requests
Submit ID
PCDB Sub Category
Part Term ID
Part Term Name
Attribute
Status
Sort
48502 Adhesives 16873 Adhesive Wrap Length Approve
48503 Adhesives 16873 Adhesive Wrap Width Approve
48504 Adhesives 16873 Adhesive Wrap Color Approve
48505 Adhesives 16873 Adhesive Wrap Dispenser Container Included Approve
20018 Adhesives 12205 Bearing Adhesive Anaerobic Approve
20019 Adhesives 12205 Bearing Adhesive Application Method Approve
20020 Adhesives 12205 Bearing Adhesive Color Approve
20021 Adhesives 12205 Bearing Adhesive Curing Time Approve
20022 Adhesives 12205 Bearing Adhesive Resistant To Approve
20023 Adhesives 12205 Bearing Adhesive Resistant To Reject
20024 Adhesives 12205 Bearing Adhesive Resistant To Reject
20136 Adhesives 12205 Bearing Adhesive Anaerobic Reject
20137 Adhesives 12205 Bearing Adhesive Application Method Reject
20138 Adhesives 12205 Bearing Adhesive Color Reject
20139 Adhesives 12205 Bearing Adhesive Curing Time Reject
20140 Adhesives 12205 Bearing Adhesive Resistant To Reject
20141 Adhesives 12205 Bearing Adhesive Resistant To Reject
20142 Adhesives 12205 Bearing Adhesive Resistant To Reject
20254 Adhesives 12205 Bearing Adhesive Anaerobic Reject
20255 Adhesives 12205 Bearing Adhesive Application Method Reject
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ...
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Figure 4 – the 'My Requests' link brings you to a reporting page, which gives you the status of all submissions. Status 'Approve' means the attribute submission has been approved and is/will be included in the PADB. Status 'Not Verified by Submitter' means you have not responded to the confirming e-mail for your submission, and you submission has not progressed further. You will note that the Submit ID on these results has a hyperlink. Clicking on the Hyperlink will confirm your submission and move it forward in the process for review. The 'Reject' status means that your attribute submission has been turned down. The Submit ID on these results also has a hyperlink, which you can click to see a note on why the submission was rejected.

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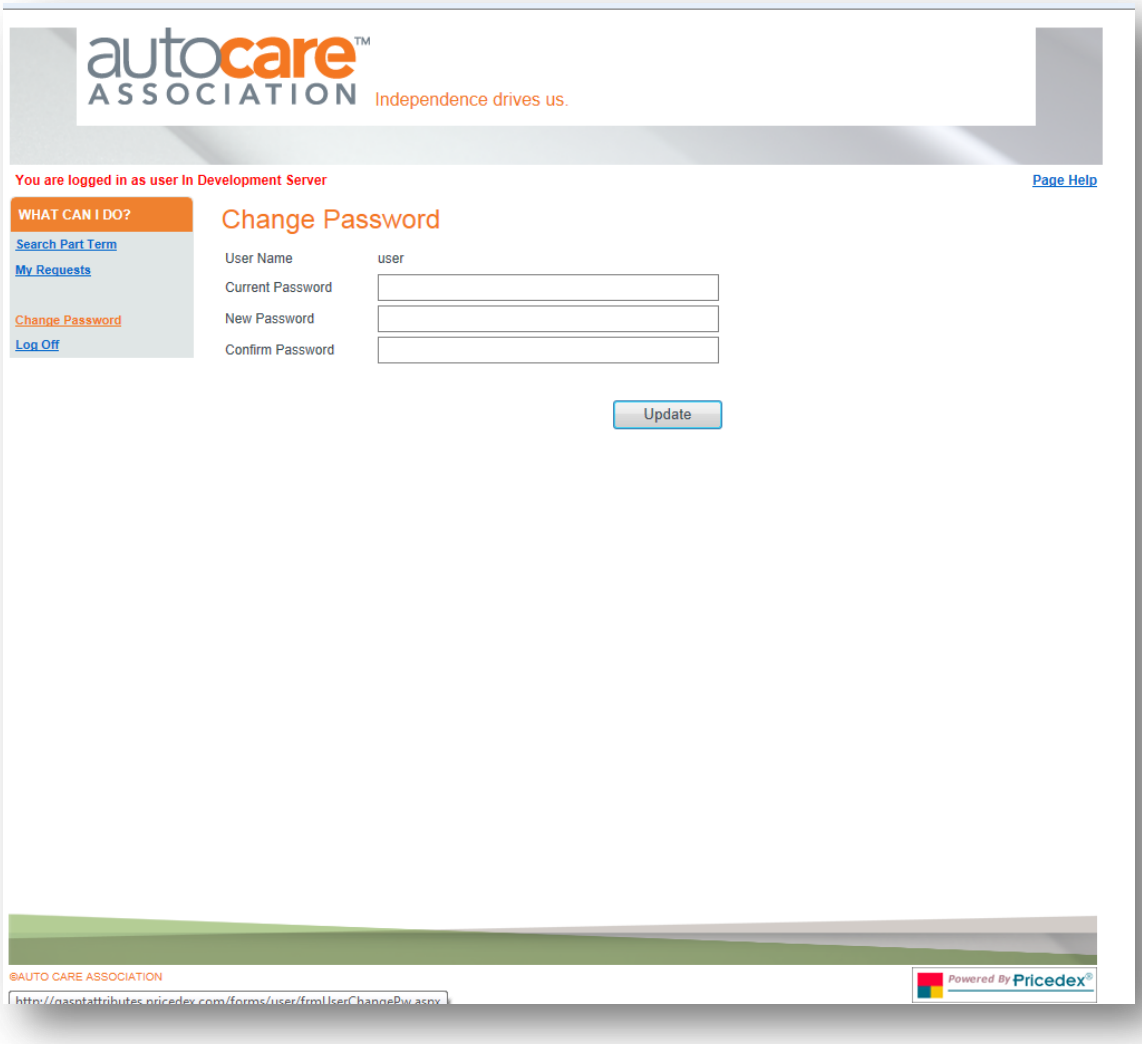

Figure 5 – Changing Passwords. Simply input a new password and confirm and click the UPDATE button. You will receive an e-mail notification with your User Name and new Password.

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Searching for Part Types to Submit Attributes

The User Screen enables you to search for Part Terminologies either by keyword, or by using the PCDB Hierarchy. Using the Text Search with a keyword will return all Part Types containing the particular keyword.

Using the PCDB Hierarchy will permit you to narrow down the scope of your selection to the Part Terminologies which are relevant to a product grouping.

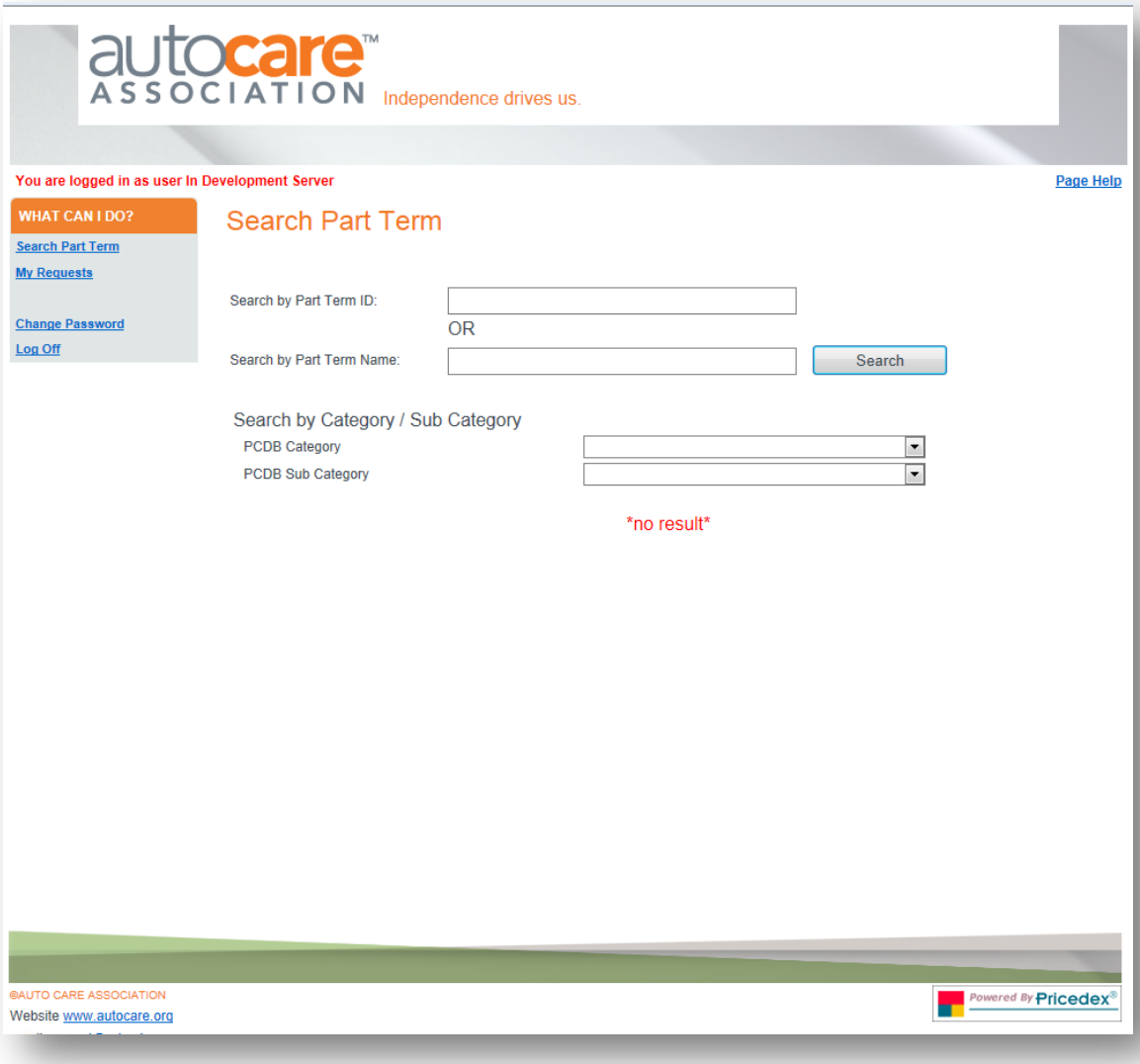

Figure 6 - The Search Screen. Type a keyword in the 'Search by Part Type Name' box to return a full list of part terminologies containing the keyword, or browse the PCDB Hierarchy using the 'Search by Category / Sub Category' drop downs.

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Searching for Part Types to Submit Attributes (cont'd)

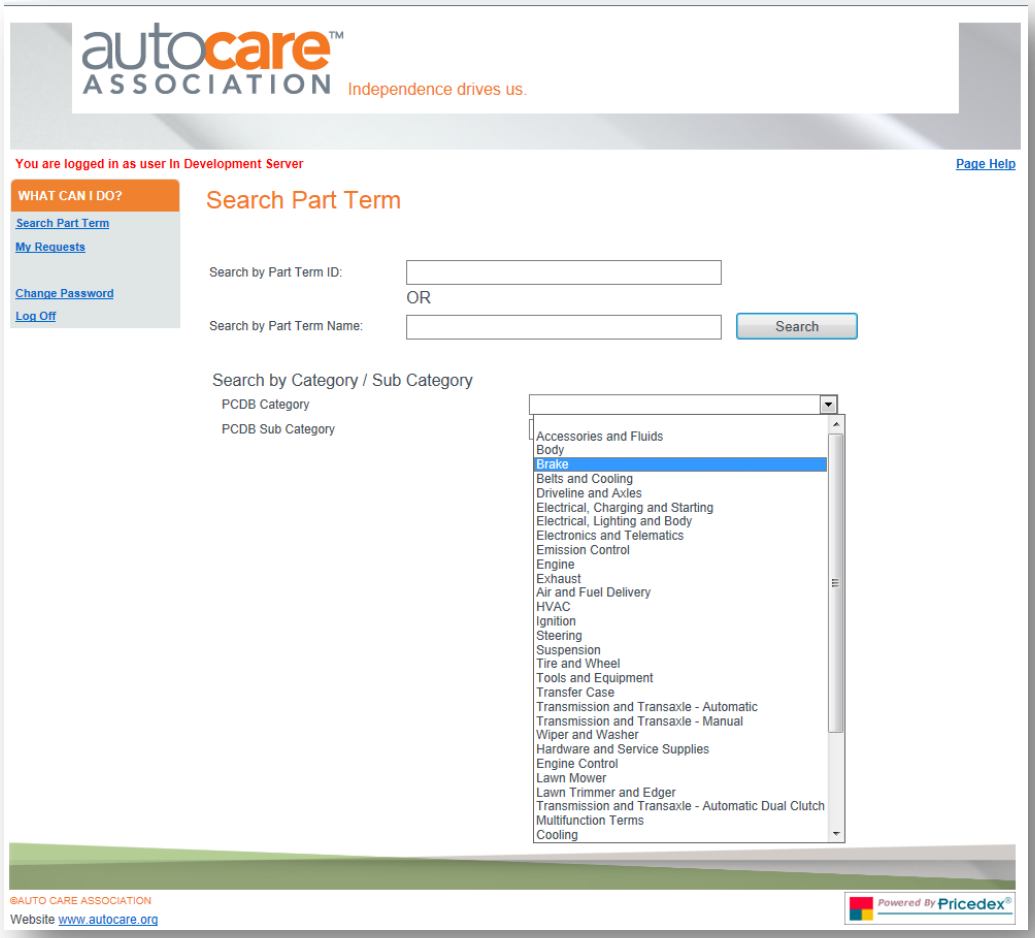

Figure 7 – Using the Category Drop Down. First, select the PCDB Category in which you are interested.

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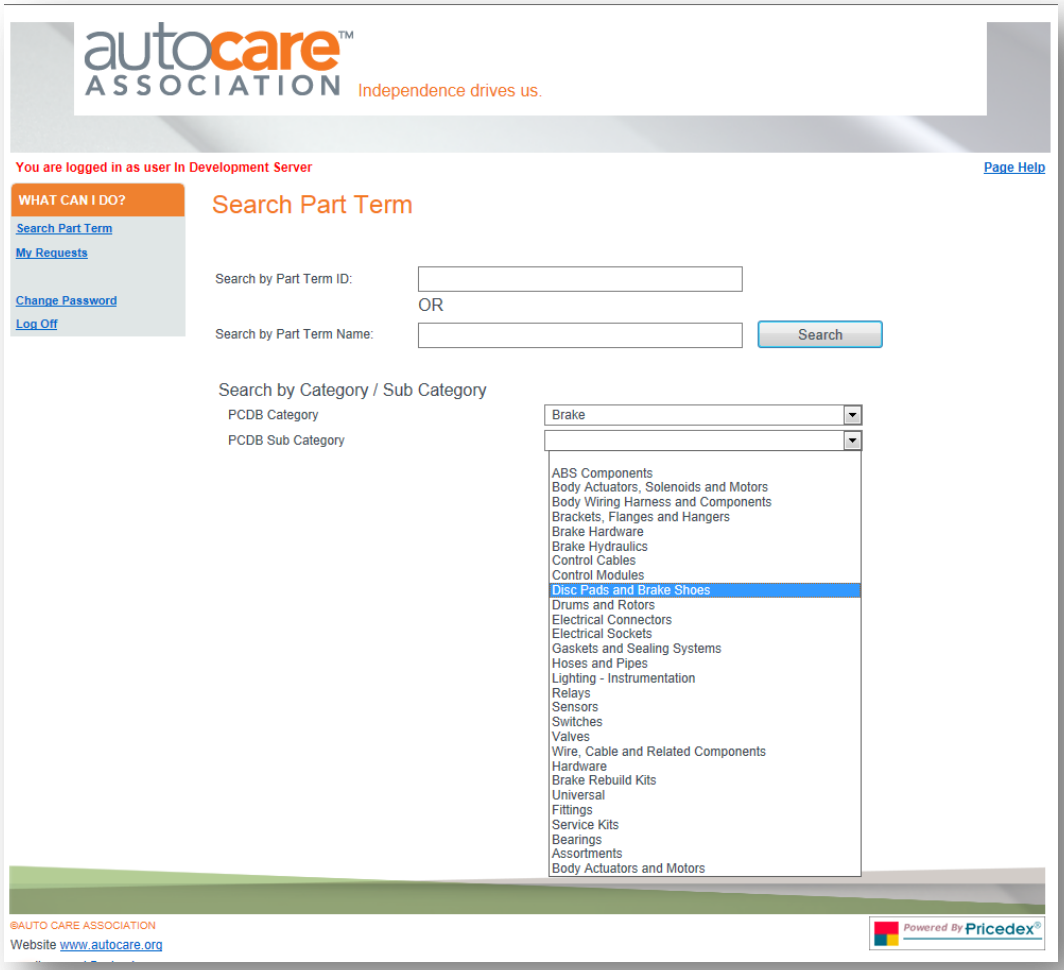

Figure 8 – Using the Sub-Category Drop Down. Once the PCDB Category is selected, the screen will refresh with the PCDB Sub-Categories relevant to the Main Category. Select by clicking.

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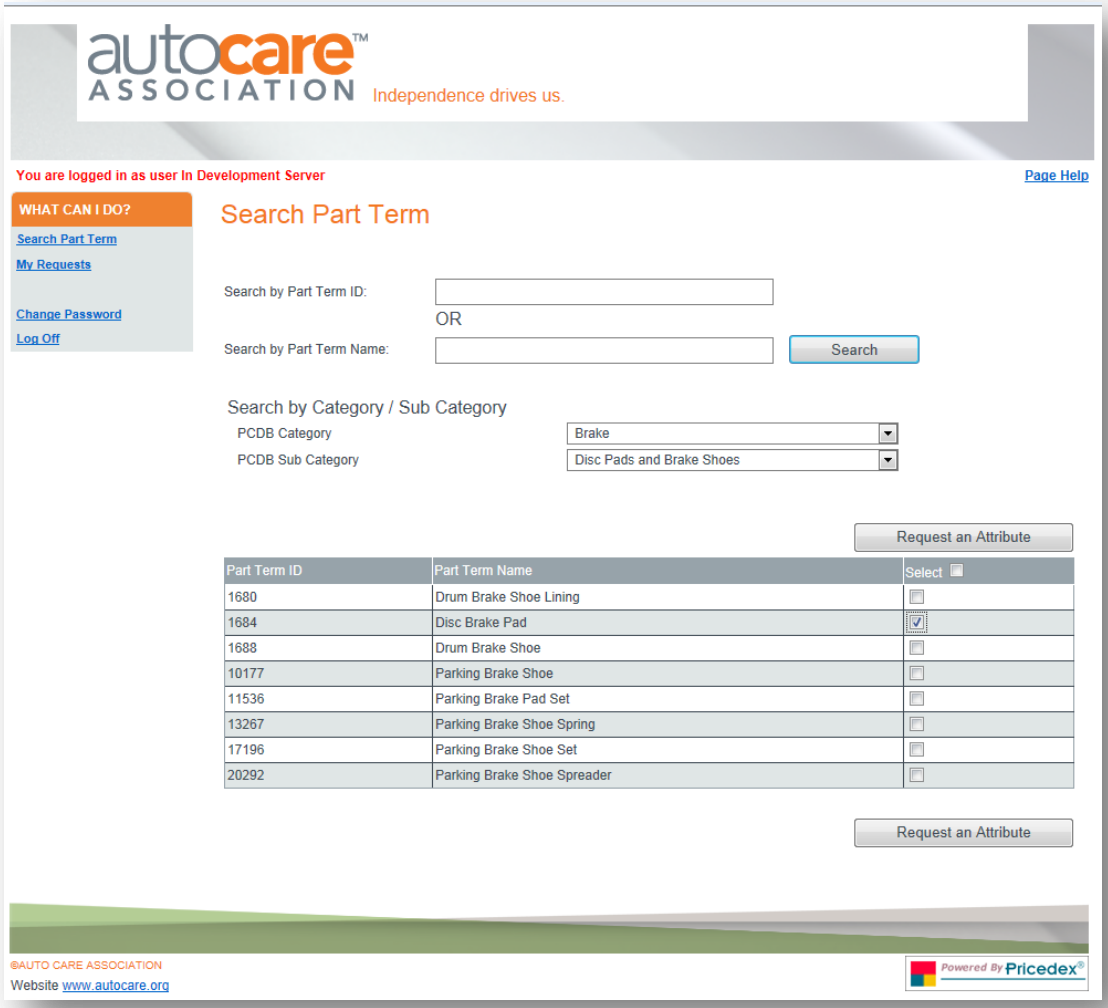

Figure 9 – Selection of Relevant Part Terminology/Terminologies – You are presented with the Sub-Set of Part Terminologies from the Sub-Category you selected. You may select ALL by clicking on the 'Select' checkbox in the Blue header row, or select individual or multiple Part Terminologies by clicking on the relevant Check Boxes. Clicking on the 'Request an Attribute' will then advance you to the Submission Page.

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Search Results – Attribute Summary for Part Terms Selected

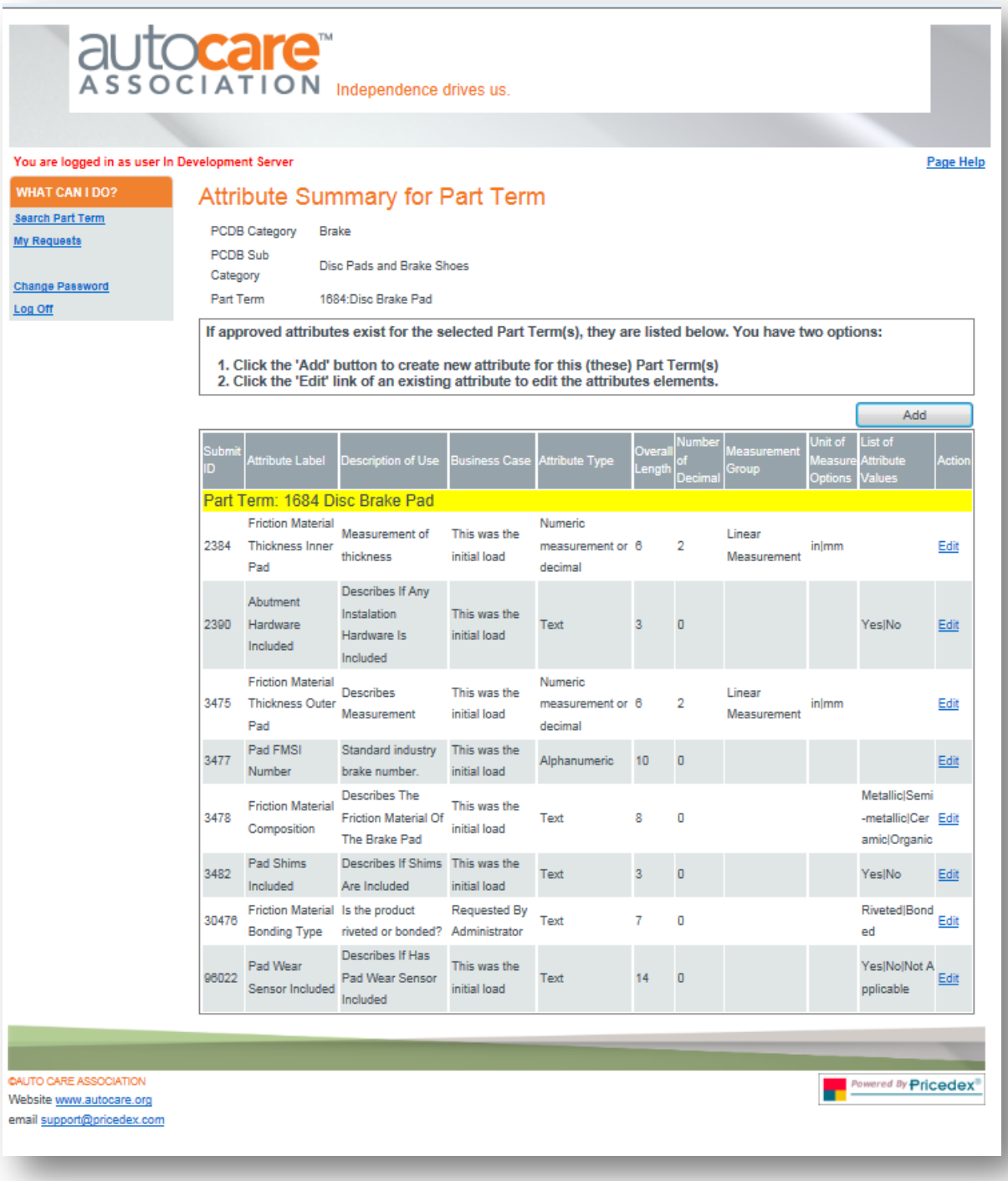
autocare ASSOCIATION
Independence drives us.
You are logged in as user In Development Server
Page Help
WHAT CAN I DO?
Search Part Term
My Requests
Change Password
Log Off
Attribute Summary for Part Term
PCDB Category Brake
PCDB Sub Category Disc Pads and Brake Shoes
Part Term 1684:Disc Brake Pad
If approved attributes exist for the selected Part Term(s), they are listed below. You have two options:
1. Click the 'Add' button to create new attribute for this (these) Part Term(s)
2. Click the 'Edit' link of an existing attribute to edit the attributes elements.
Add
Submit ID | Attribute Label | Description of Use | Business Case | Attribute Type | Overall Length | Number of Decimal | Measurement Group | Unit of Measure Options | List of Attribute Values | Action
Part Term: 1684 Disc Brake Pad
2384 | Friction Material Thickness Inner Pad | Measurement of thickness | This was the initial load | Numeric measurement or decimal | 6 | 2 | Linear Measurement | in|mm | | Edit
2390 | Abutment Hardware Included | Describes If Any Instalation Hardware Is Included | This was the initial load | Text | 3 | 0 | | | Yes|No | Edit
3475 | Friction Material Thickness Outer Pad | Describes Measurement | This was the initial load | Numeric measurement or decimal | 6 | 2 | Linear Measurement | in|mm | | Edit
3477 | Pad FMSI Number | Standard industry brake number. | This was the initial load | Alphanumeric | 10 | 0 | | | | Edit
3478 | Friction Material Composition | Describes The Friction Material Of The Brake Pad | This was the initial load | Text | 8 | 0 | | | Metallic|Semi-metallic|Ceramic|Organic | Edit
3482 | Pad Shims Included | Describes If Shims Are Included | This was the initial load | Text | 3 | 0 | | | Yes|No | Edit
30476 | Friction Material Bonding Type | Is the product riveted or bonded? | Requested By Administrator | Text | 7 | 0 | | | Riveted|Bonded | Edit
96022 | Pad Wear Sensor Included | Describes If Has Pad Wear Sensor Included | This was the initial load | Text | 14 | 0 | | | Yes|No|Not Applicable | Edit
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Figure 10 – The results of your search are displayed. If attributes exist for any of the Part Terms you searched, they will be displayed here. You may ADD a new attribute submission for ALL of the Part Terms you searched by clicking the ADD button. You may, alternatively, EDIT ANY of the existing attributes by clicking on the EDIT link located in the 'Action' Column at the end of the specific Attribute Record.

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About Adding Attributes

The Attribute Submission Page is where you will perform you work to make a submission. There are a number of fields on this page which you will have to fill in. The first half of the page, including your contact information and the Part Types for which you are submitting a request, are automatically filled in for you from your login information and your Part Terminology selection(s).

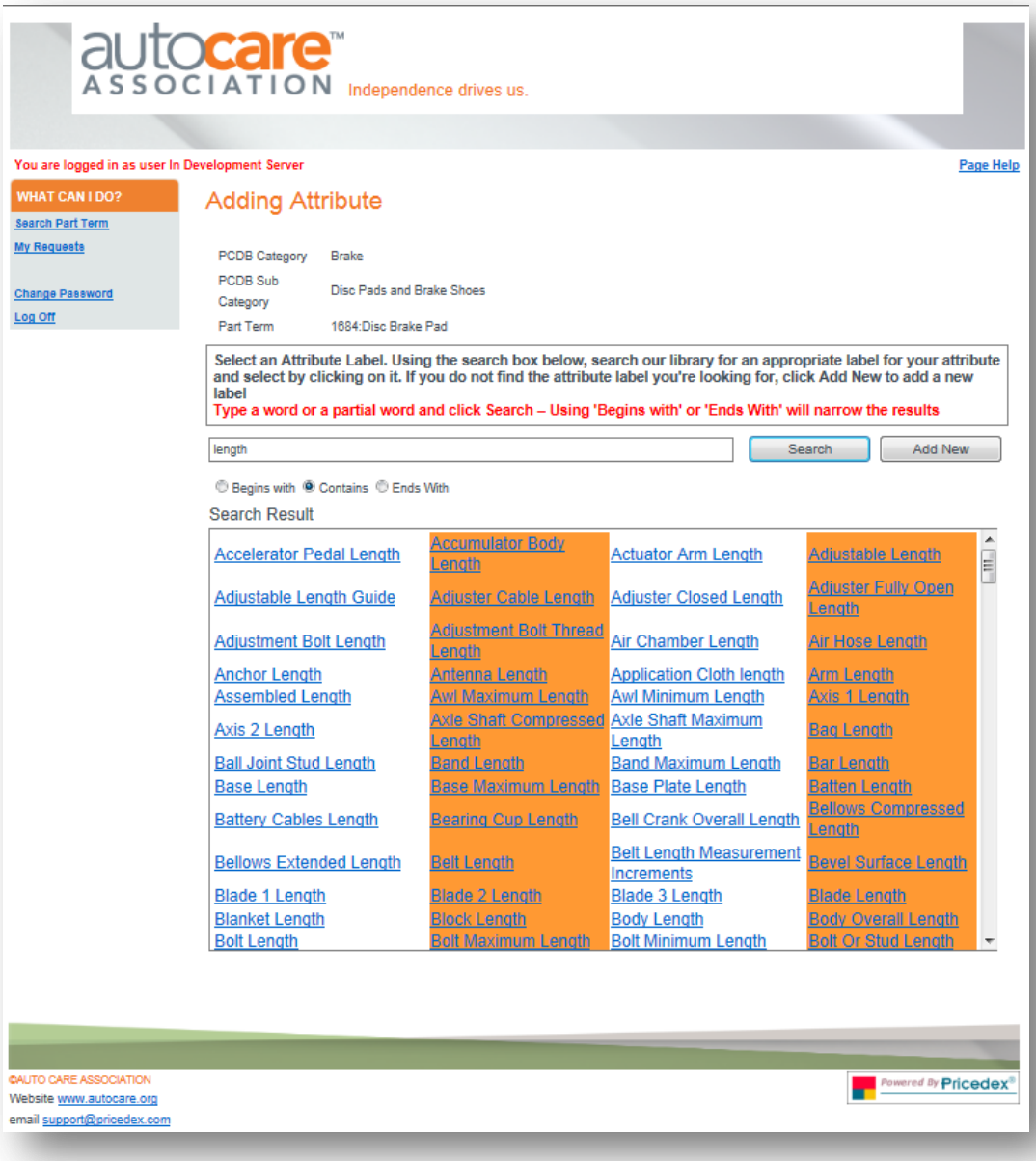

Figure 11 – The Attribute Submission Page – this is your workspace for creating an attribute submission. Select the NAME (label) for your Attribute by first performing a search through the Attribute Name Library for an appropriate Attribute Label. The Search is defaulted to a 'Contains' search, meaning term that you type will return ALL instances where that word is used. This is particularly useful when searching out a dimensional attribute. The example shown, a search for all Names containing the word, 'length', demonstrates them many ways 'Length' can be described across many Part Terms. If the system returns a suitable label, click on it to select, or complete the proper label name in the Search Box and click on the 'Add New' button.

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About Editing Attributes

Sometimes attributes which have been approved need updating, clarification, or some other form of editing. This is done by Submitting Edits for an already approved attribute. When you have clicked on the 'Edit' link for an attribute, you are presented with the following page:

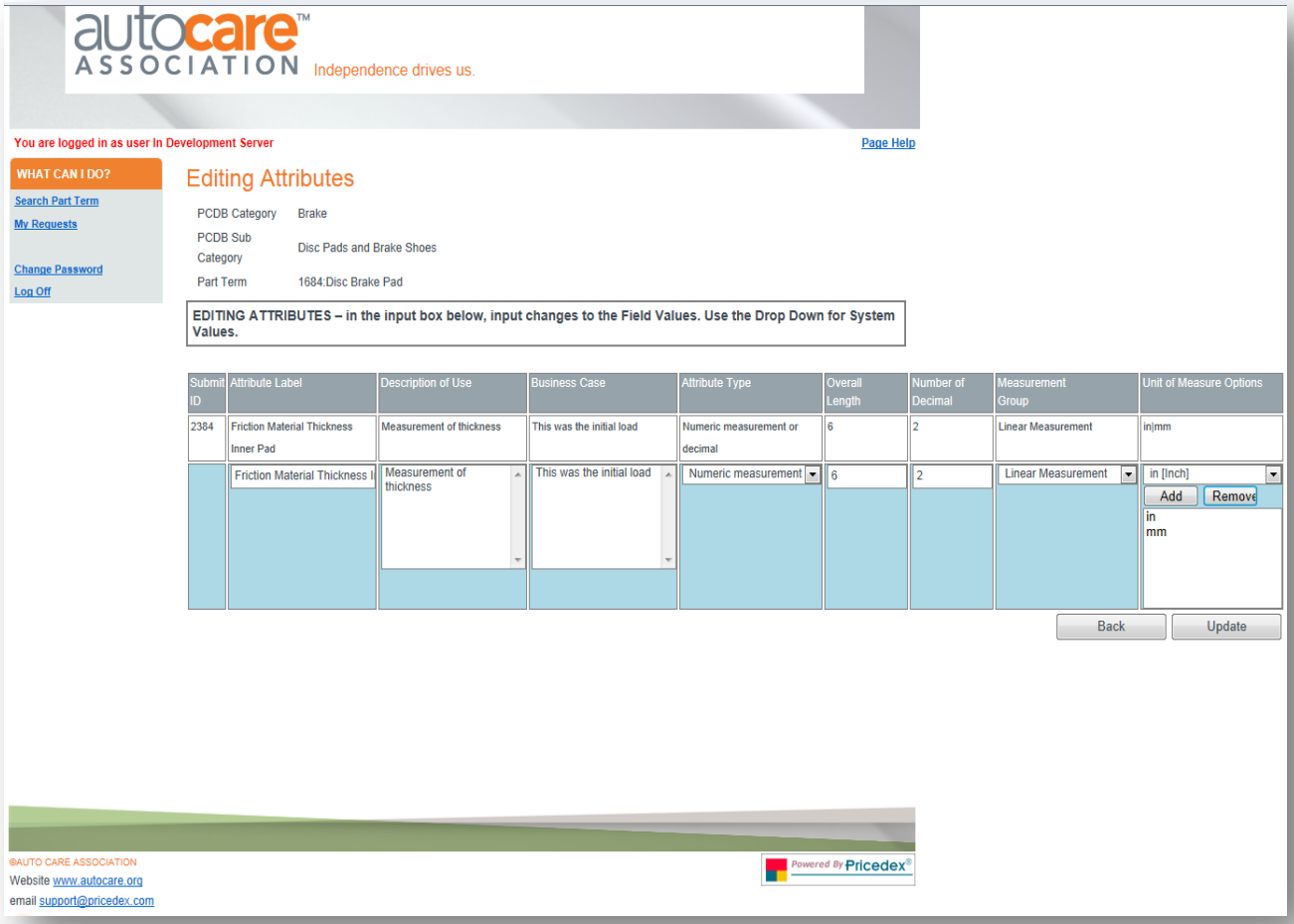

Figure 12 – Editing Attributes – you may edit the value of any component of the attribute from this page. Be sure to read the section on Defining Attributes in the User Manual or in the Help File.

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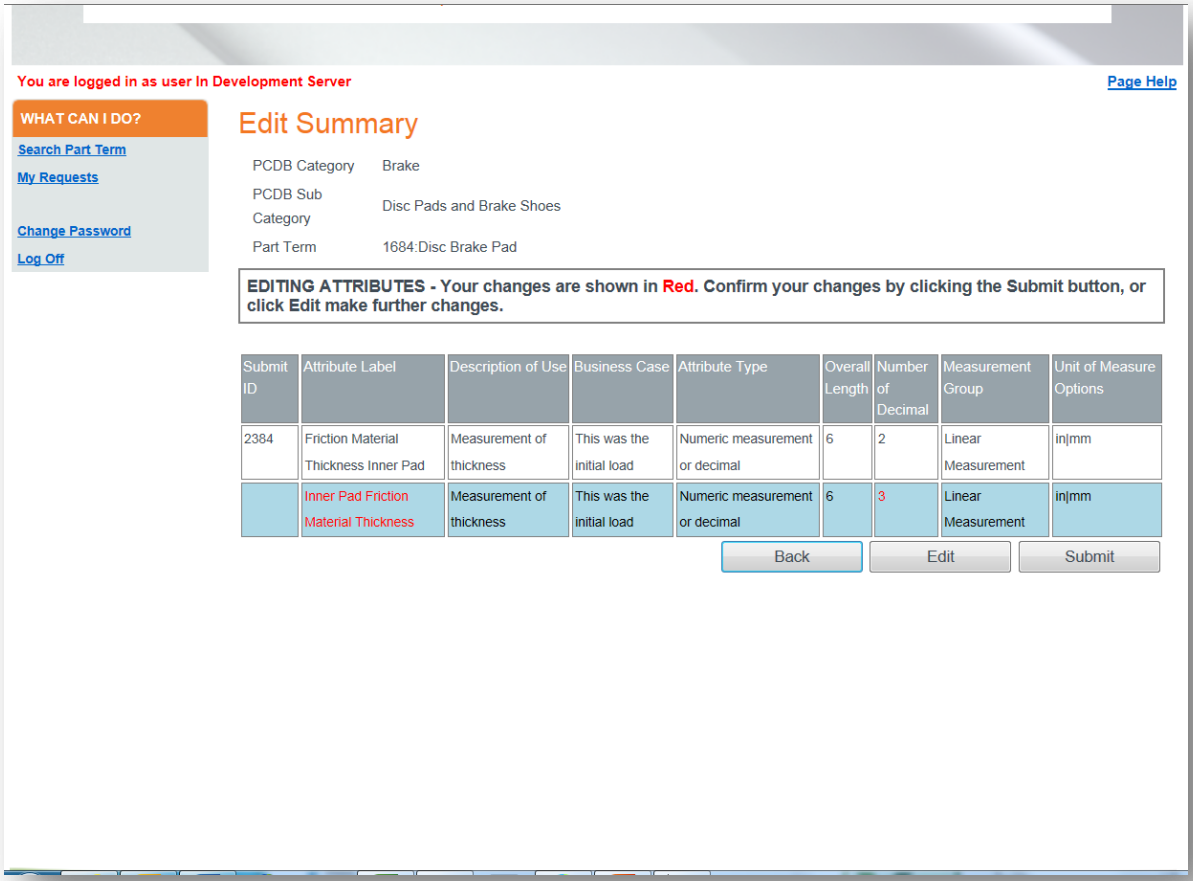

Figure 13 – Summary of Edits will be shown in RED. You may either hit the 'Back' button to start over, click the EDIT button to continue editing, or click the SUBMIT button to submit your request.

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About Defining an Attribute for Submission

The bottom half of the Attribute Submission Page contains your workspace to build an attribute for submission. There are several items to determine, in defining the attribute:

a) What is the attribute name or label?
b) What type of attribute is it?
c) What is the attribute's length?
d) If the attribute is numeric in nature, does it need decimal spaces? If yes, how many?
e) If the attribute represents a measurement, what is the proper Unit of Measure to describe the measurement? Is a metric measurement an option for this Part Type?
f) Could the attribute have a pre-determined list of values? Are there a finite number of choices of values? Or, is there already a pre-defined list of values?

These are the questions you need to ask, and be prepared to answer, in order to submit an attribute for consideration.

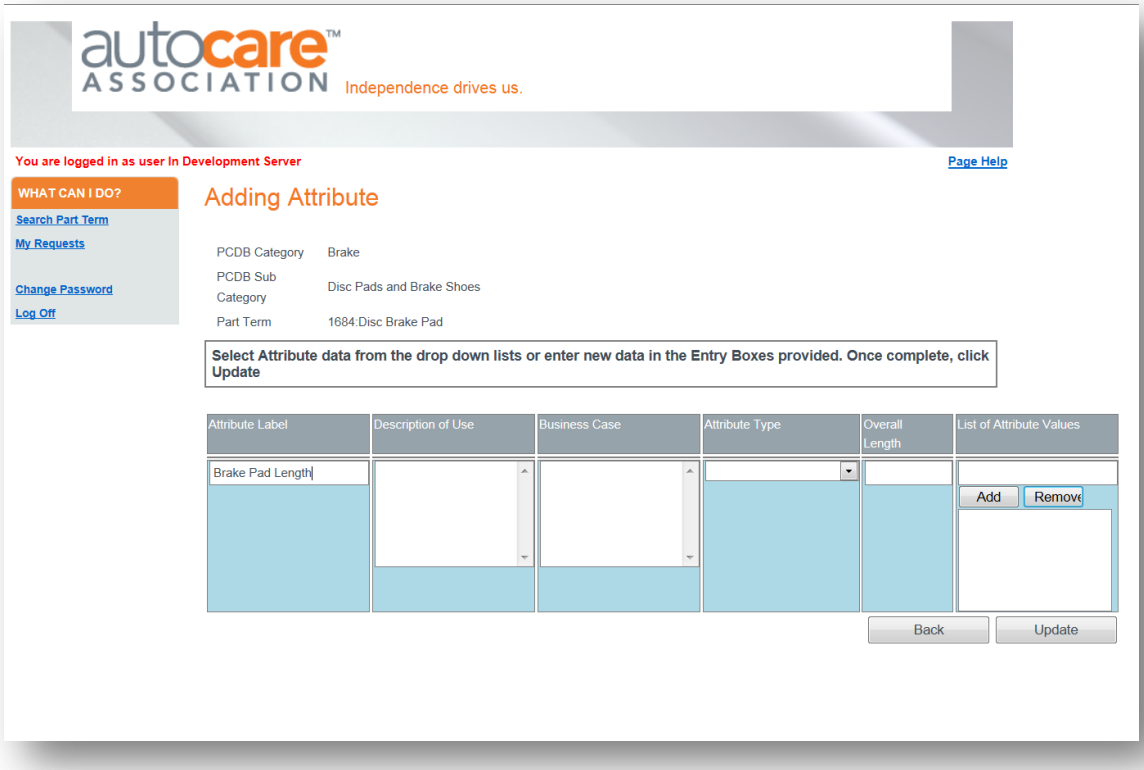

Figure 14 – The first step in Attribute Submission – defining the Attribute Name (Label) – either from an existing list, or new creation of a label

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About Attribute Labels

Here are a few rules and guidelines about attribute labels

- **An attribute is potentially Valid if:**
  - It describes a dimensional characteristic
    - (length, width, depth, thickness, etc.)
  - It describes a physical characteristic
    - (color, material composition, etc.)
  - It describes a performance characteristic
    - (gear ratio, torque, amperage, flow, etc.)
  - If, in the case of a Kit or an Assembly Component, it describes if a part critical to the operation of the assembly is included in the package.

- **An attribute is Invalid if:**
  - It already exists in PIES or ACES
  - It describes proprietary data
    - (formula, makeup by percentage, etc.)
  - It describes a feature or benefit
  - It contains any invalid characters
  - It does not clearly describe itself
  - It is not punctuated in Title Case
  - It contains contractions or punctuation

The Attribute System contains a library of Attribute Labels, from which you can select, or you can create a unique, new label. Your new attribute label, if accepted, will be available to others for future use.

NOTE: When you select an Attribute Label, you are NOT selecting its metadata. The PADB links your attribute to the Part Terminology or Terminologies to which you assign it. In this way, for instance, there can be many variations for the attribute, 'Length', or the attribute 'Width', based upon the precision of measurement required for the particular Part Terminology.

A good example might be the attribute, 'Thickness'. This is a common attribute for many part types, but different part types might require different precision of measurement. For example, the thickness of a Piston Ring might be measured to 4 decimal places, while the thickness of a brake pad might be to 3 decimal places; and the thickness of a double-sided adhesive pad may only be to 2 decimal places.

So, while the attribute label is exactly the same for these three Part Types, the METADATA changes. The Part Attribute System assigns CODES to your submission elements, which are then published into the PADB, representing coded values. The combinations of Length and Decimals becomes one Code, the Unit of Measure Options becomes another code, the Attribute Type becomes another code, and the Label has its own code. This combination of Codes is then linked to the Part Terminology as a unique set.

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About Attribute Types

Alphanumeric - An Alphanumeric Attribute is an attribute whose value can contain a mixture of letters and numbers. The metadata that has to be logged for an alphanumeric attribute is simply, 'Length'.

Numeric, Measurement or Decimal – A Numeric Attribute identifying a Measurement has special metadata, which includes defining both the Length of the attribute, the number of decimal places which need to be defined, the Unit of Measure used for the type of measurement, and whether there should be a metric option for expressing the attribute's measurement.

About Unit of Measure Options

It has become Standard Practice to define both the Metric and the US Units of Measure within the Product Attribute Database, so it is highly recommended that you do so when defining your attribute submission. The Part Attribute System has a lookup for Units of Measure, based upon the following Groupings:

Grouping	Definition	Examples (US/Metric)
Linear Measurement	Measurement of Lengths and Distances	Inch, Foot, Mile/Millimeter, Centimeter, Kilometer
Surface Measurement	Measurement of an Area	quare Inch, Square Foot/Square Centimeter, Square Meter
Volume Measurement	Measurement of Space, Displacement, Liquid	Cubic Inches, Gallon/Cubic Centimeters, Litre
Weight		Ounce, Pound, Ton/ Gram, Kilogram, Tonne
Performance	Measurement of Output or Consumption	Miles per Gallon, Horsepower/Liters per 100 kilometers/Kilojoules
Time		Milliseconds, Seconds, Minutes
Temperature and Energy		Degrees Farenheit, Calories/Degrees Celsius, Joules
Electrical		AC Volts, DC Volts, Amps
Frequency		Hertz, Kilohertz, Megahertz
Computer Storage and Memory		Kilobytes, Megabytes
Velocity and Flow	Rate of Speed or Flow of Gas or Liquid	Gallons per Hour/Cubic meters per second
Density and Thickness		Parts per Million, Gauge/Mils

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When selecting the Measurement type, these Groupings appear in a drop down list. Select the appropriate Grouping to describe the Unit of Measure Type, and a subsequent Drop Down will display the Options for Units of Measure for that Measure Type. Select the appropriate Unit of Measure, and, if applicable, its Metric counterpart, and add them to your selection.

About Decimal Place Determination

When selecting the number of decimal places an attribute should have; consider what the MAXIMUM number of decimals required for a typical precision measurement would be in either the metric case or the US measurement case. The number of decimal spaces you request should reflect that MAXIMUM number. When calculating the length of the attribute, DO NOT COUNT the DECIMAL AS A SPACE.

Example: A Part Terminology needs a Length attribute, which would typically be expressed in Inches when using the US system, but in Millimeters when using the Metric System. The metric system measurement will likely need less decimal places than the US system in this case, because a millimeter is a significantly smaller (thus more precise) unit of measure than an inch. In this case, the Inch measurement would require 3 decimal places to permit precision to permit precision to the $1/8^{th}$ inch. The millimeter measurement requires no decimals, but requires more spaces to the left of the decimal to represent the measurement (25.4 millimeters to 1 inch – means that, in order to support a METRIC measurement, you are likely going to need to define more spaces to the LEFT of the decimal, while, for US Measurements, you are likely going to need to define more spaces to the RIGHT of the decimal.

So, to support the attribute LENGTH for this Part Terminology, you would likely consider a length of 6 for the attribute length, and 3 decimal spaces. The net result will be an attribute that can handle a number up to *'999',* with decimal precision to *'999'.* **REMEMBER, YOU DO NOT COUNT THE DECIMAL ITSELF AS PART OF THE LENGTH OF THE ATTRIBUTE.**

Numeric, Quantity or Whole Number - Choose this attribute type when representing a Value that is NOT a measurement of something, and does NOT require a decimal.

Example: 'Fire Retardant Rating' is the proposed attribute, and the values are expressed as a Whole Number between 1 and 5. You would propose the attribute label, with Attribute Type of 'Numeric, Quantity or Whole Number', and a length of 1 to support this attribute.

Text – A text attribute is a simple string, that contains only alphabetic characters.

Logical – A Logical attribute, in the context of the PADB, is an attribute that would have a value of 'Yes' or 'No'; or, alternatively, 'True or False'. IN LIEU OF TRANSMITTING THE ATTRIBUTE VALUE AS THE BOOLEAN 'T' OR 'F', IT IS A RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICE TO SEND THE ACTUAL TEXTUAL VALUES IN THEIR FULL STRING FORM AS '**PRE-CODED VALUES'** (*SEE SECTION ON PRE-CODED VALUES*)

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About Attribute Lengths

In considering what an attribute length should be, try to consider some standard conventions:

A typical Alphanumeric or Text Attribute is 25, 80, 100, 255, or 2000 characters. This is NOT the rule, but IS a best practice.

A Numeric Attribute representing a Measurement or Decimal needs a length to accommodate BOTH the maximum number of units that are possible (spaces to the left of the decimal), and the maximum number of decimal places to support the precision of measurement required, both for US and Metric measurements. THE DECIMAL PLACE ITSELF DOES NOT COUNT AS A SPACE IN THE OVERALL LENGTH. See the section on 'Numeric, Measurement or Decimal', above.

About Attribute Pre-Coded Values

There will be circumstances where an Attribute you are proposing may have a finite List of Values that may make sense for the Industry to use as the actual values for that particular attribute.

For example, an automotive lamp may have a finite number of Base Types, as defined by an authoritative body, or an automotive battery may have a finite number of Case Types; or a Brake Caliper may have a finite list of Metallurgy from which the castings are composed. You may submit, as a list of Pre-Code Values, this list. In these circumstances, you do NOT have to define an Attribute Length. The system will calculate the maximum length to accommodate the List of Pre-Coded Values.

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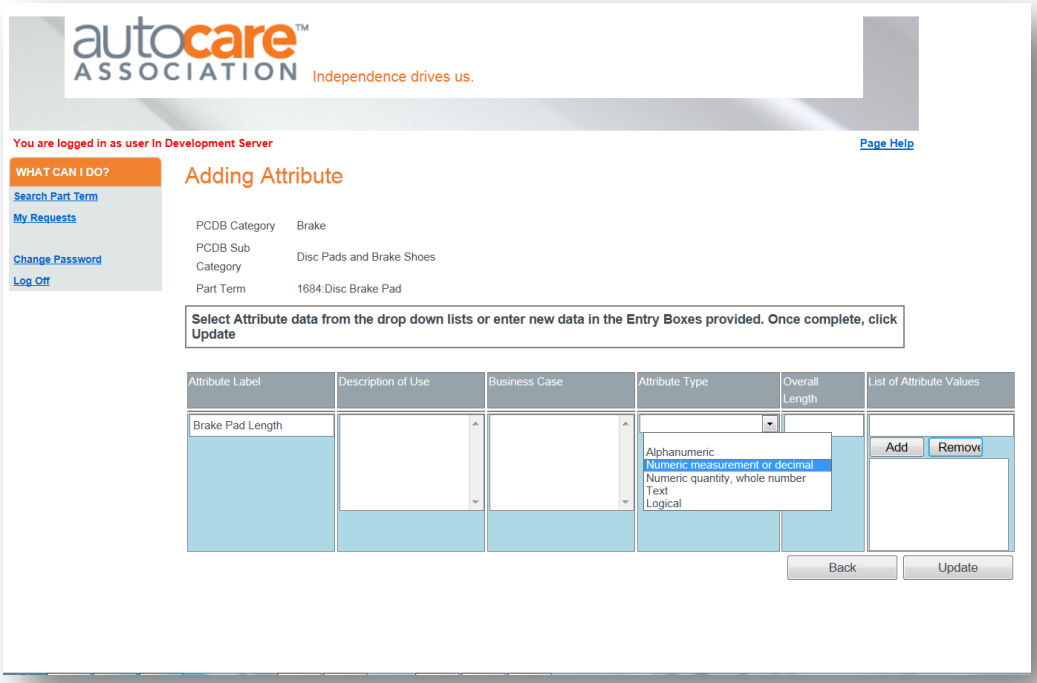

Figure 15 – Selecting an Attribute Type – see the definitions in this Guide. Once you select, your screen will refresh with new options if you have selected a 'Numeric measurement or decimal' type, so that you can determine the Units of Measure and the Decimal places associated with that attribute type.

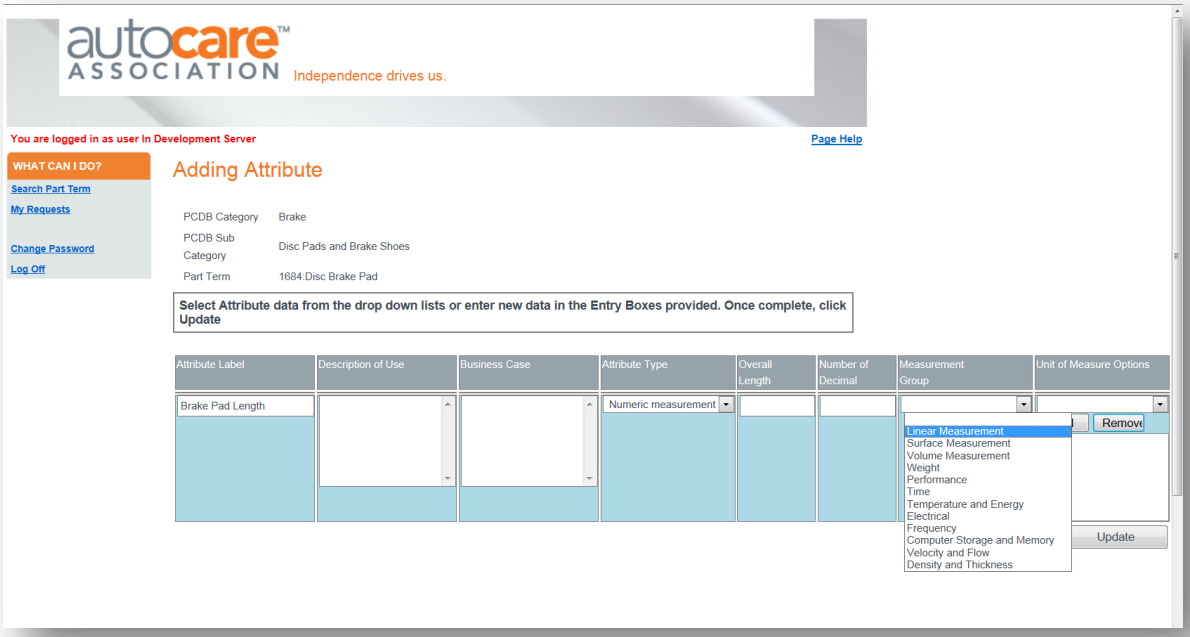

Figure 16 – NUMERIC MEASUREMENT OR DECIMAL Attribute Type - Selecting a Measurement Group – by refining the type of measurement here, you will be presented with the contextual Unit of Measure options from which to select in the next step.

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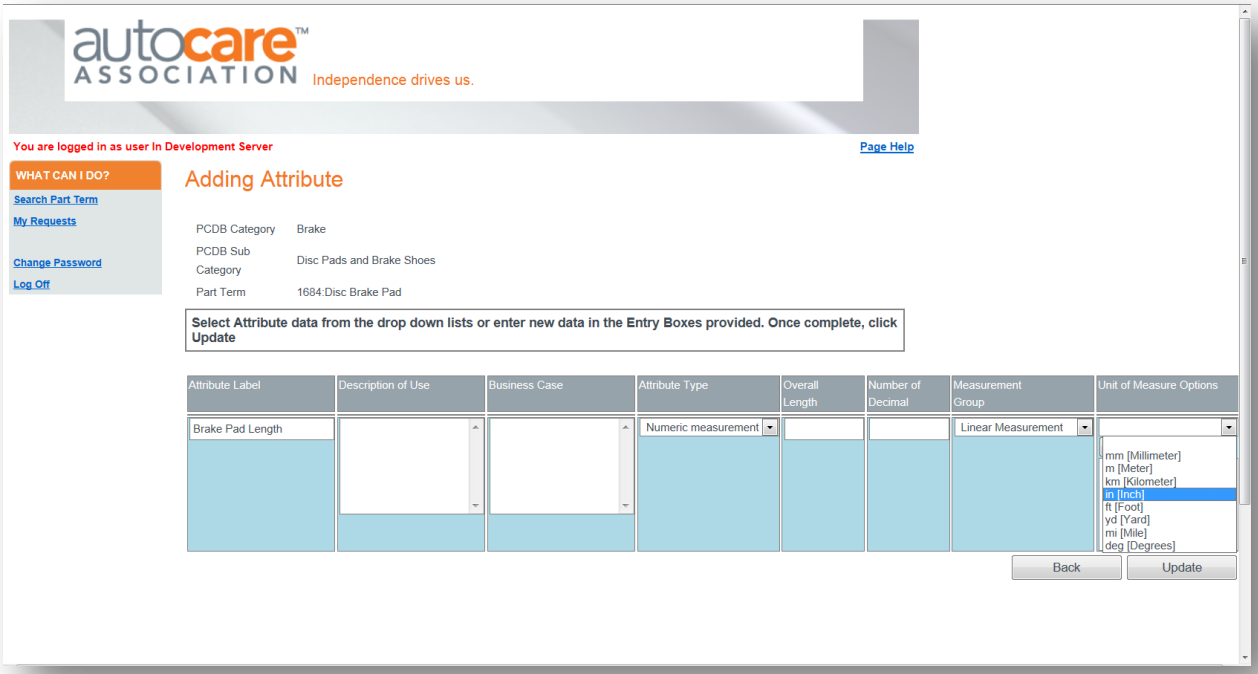

Figure 17 – NUMERIC MEASUREMENT OR DECIMAL Attribute Type – Selecting the appropriate Units of Measure – REMEMBER, IT IS A BEST PRACTICE TO DEFINE BOTH THE US Measure and the METRIC Measure at this stage, to enable the option of using this attribute for either type of measurement. THE PADB DOES NOT MAINTAIN DISTINCT ATTRIBUTE DEFINITIONS FOR US AND METRIC MEASUREMENTS. IT PRESENTS THE MEASUREMENT ATTRIBUTE WITH THE OPTION TO SEND EITHER US OR METRIC.

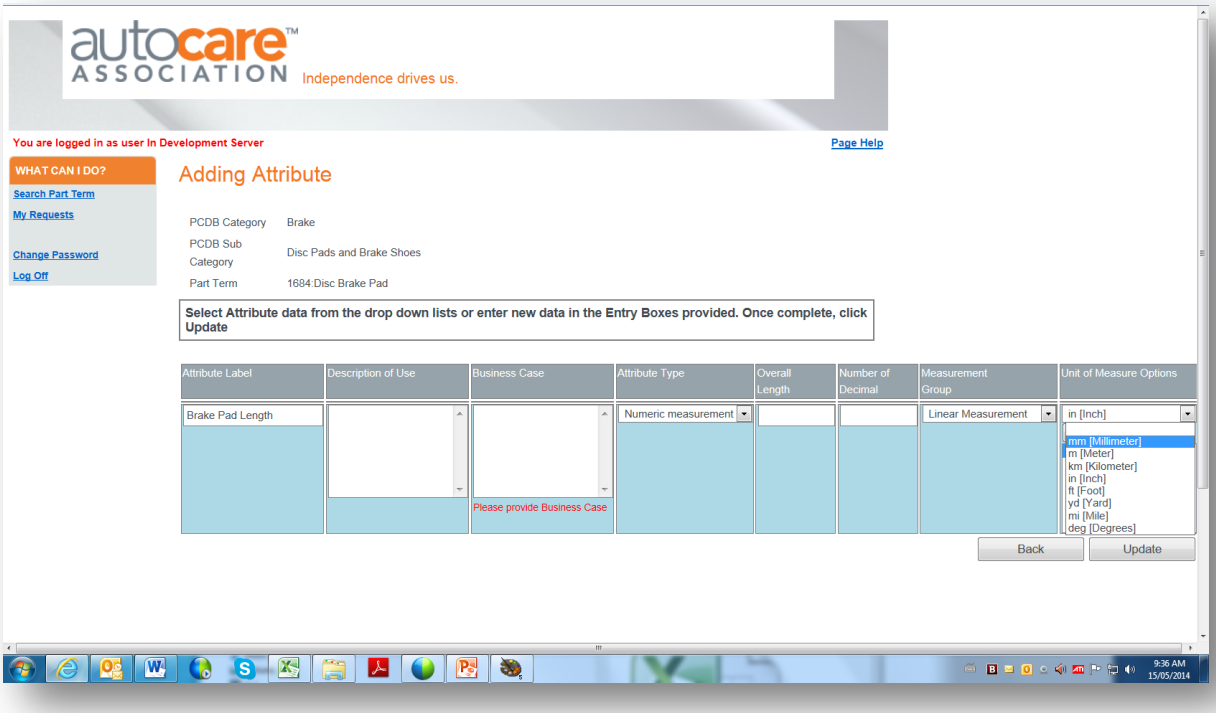

Figure 18 - NUMERIC MEASUREMENT OR DECIMAL Attribute Type – Select the Unit of Measure and click the ADD button. Repeat to add other Units of Measure. If you make a mistake, highlight the Unit of Measure you wish to remove and click the REMOVE button. Once selected, the result will display in the 'Unit of Measure Options' box.

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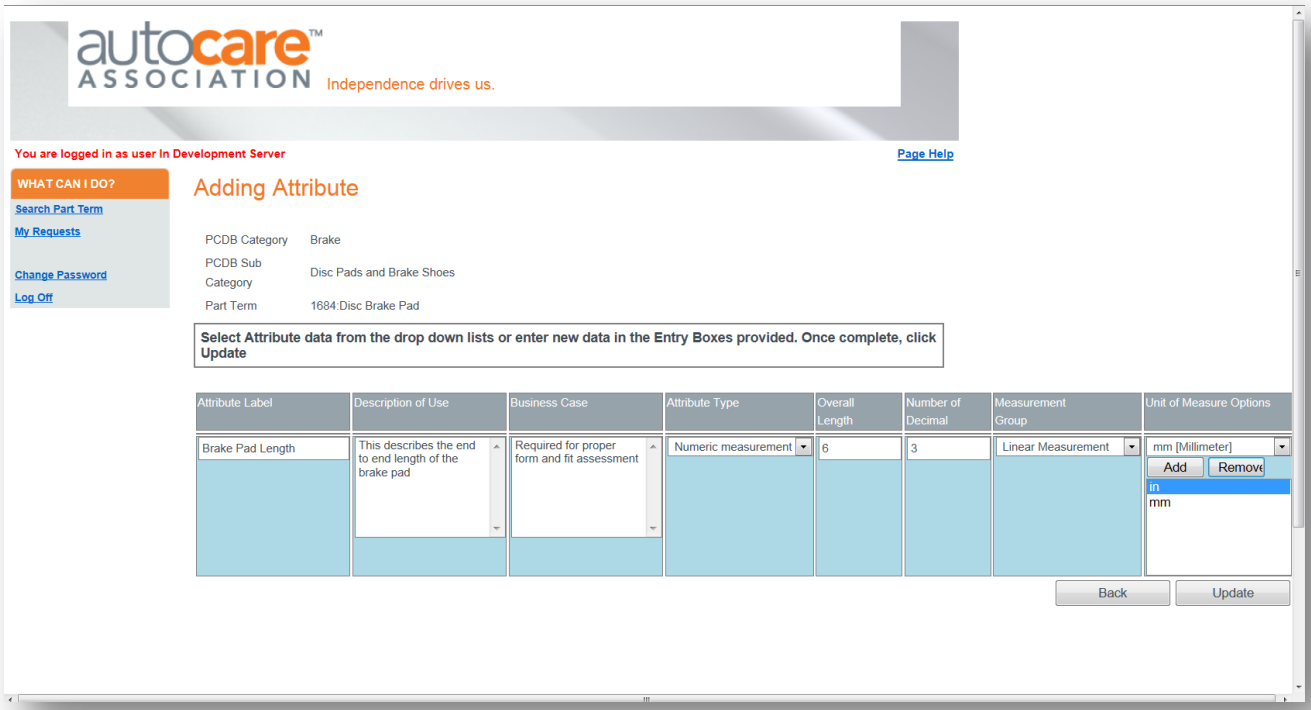

Figure 19 – DESCRIPTION OF USE, and BUSINESS CASE Entry Boxes – these are MANDATORY FIELDS in which you should provide a simple description of the use of the attribute, and a stated reason that you need the attribute. These entries will be assessed by the Subject Matter Experts reviewing your attribute submission. It is your opportunity for making the case to have the attribute included in the PADB, and, as well, your opportunity to add value by describing how the attribute is used. When you have completed filling in these form fields, you can either move up and edit your attribute submission, click on the BACK button to restart the process, or click on the UPDATE button to review.

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Figure 20 – REVIEW AND SUBMIT PAGE – this page gives you a view of the attribute(s) you have built, and the Part Terminologies to which you would like the attributes assigned. If the summary information is incorrect, click on the attribute's EDIT link to make changes. If you are comfortable with your submission(s), click on the SUBMIT button.

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After Attribute Submission – What Happens?

Your attribute submissions, once validated, will be directed to an individual or group of Subject Matter Experts who have been assigned to the Part Terminologies you have selected for submission.

These Subject Matter Experts are industry volunteers who have knowledge and expertise from either the manufacturers' viewpoint, or a data receivers' viewpoint. They will assess the attribute to ensure that it meets all the rules of conformity for the PADB, and that the attribute properly fits into the definition of describing the 'Form-Fit-Function-Performance' characteristics of PADB attributes, or fits the special case of defining whether a critical component is included.

Before this occurs, however, you MUST validate your request. When you have clicked on the 'Submit Request' button, you will receive a message on the screen giving your submission a Unique Number, and asking you to validate your submission by responding to a system-generated e-mail. IF YOU DO NOT perform this validation, your request will be held in 'suspense' and will not proceed to be routed to the Subject Matter Experts.

The Subject Matter Experts may contact you for clarification, or negotiation. Once they are done with the review, they will vote upon it. If approved, you will receive an Approval Notification by mail. If denied, you will receive a Rejection Notification by mail.

Once an attribute is approved, it will be automatically published and released in the next scheduled monthly PADB Publication.

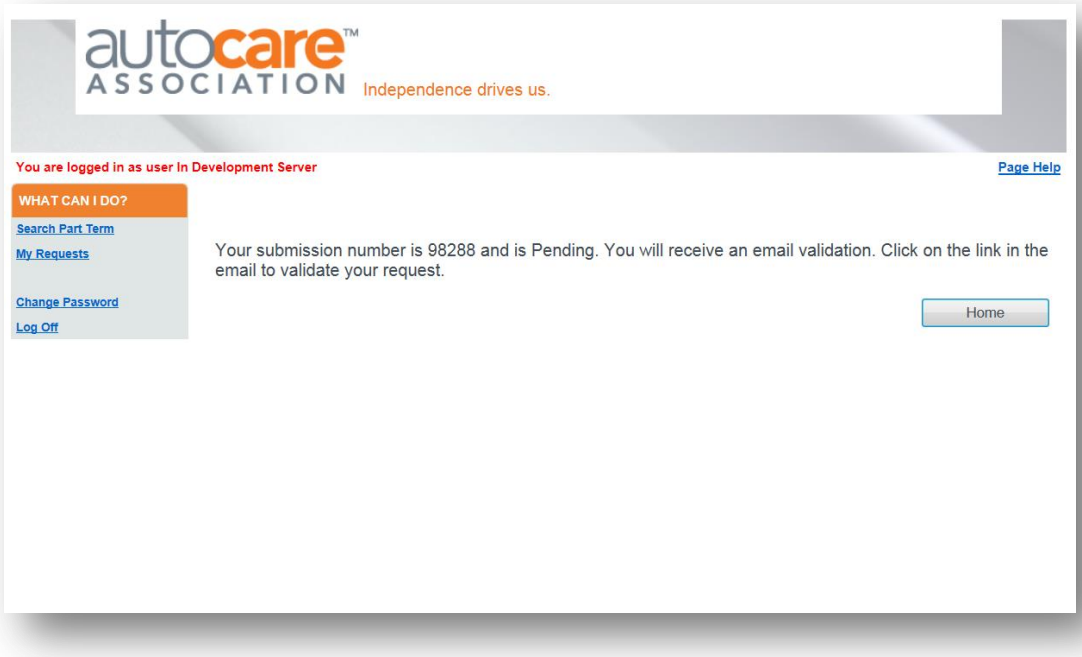
autocare™
ASSOCIATION
Independence drives us.
You are logged in as user In Development Server
Page Help
WHAT CAN I DO?
Search Part Term
My Requests
Change Password
Log Off
Your submission number is 98288 and is Pending. You will receive an email validation. Click on the link in the email to validate your request.
Home

Figure 21 – System Message notifying you of your Submission Number, and status.

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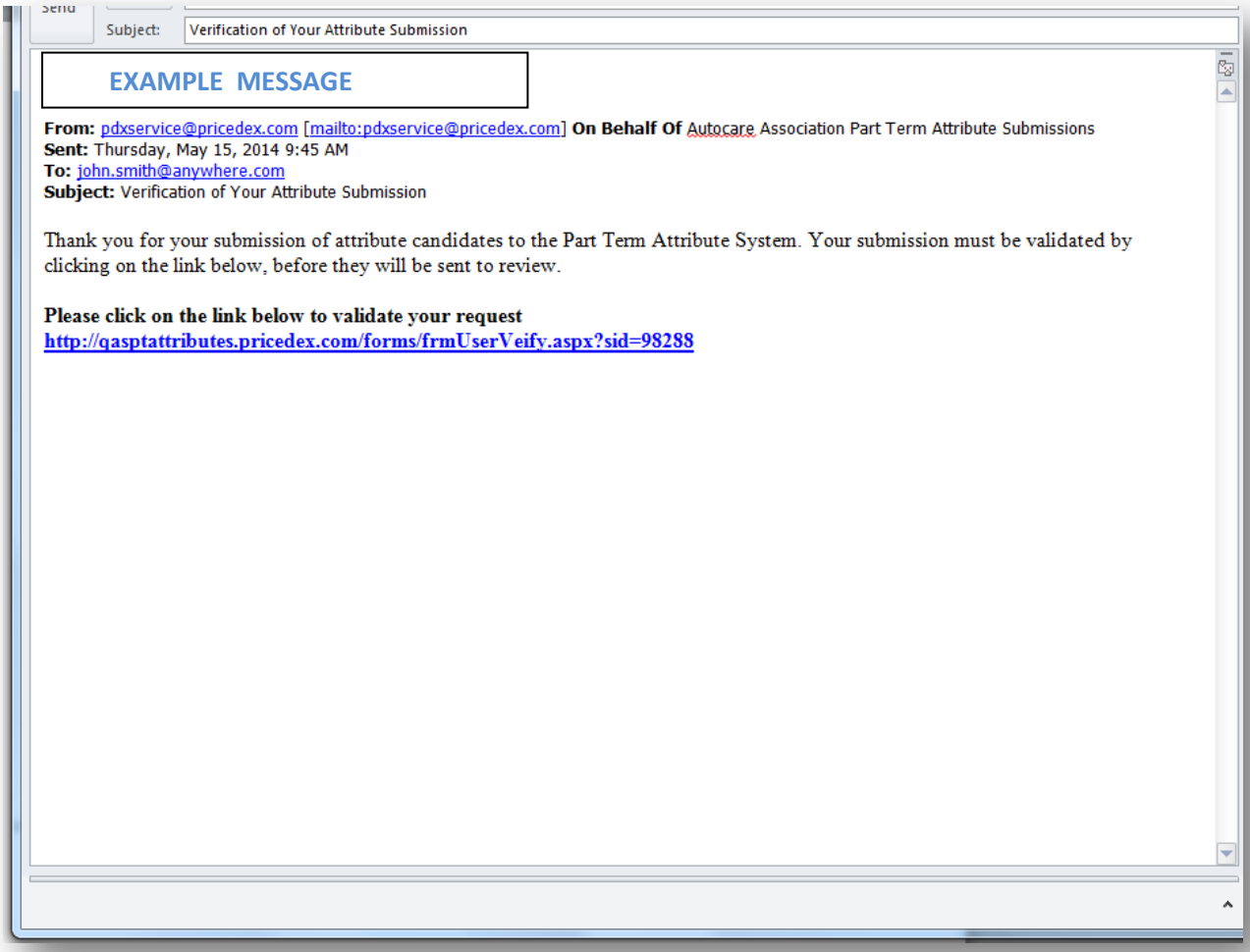
Send
Subject:
Verification of Your Attribute Submission
EXAMPLE MESSAGE
From: pdxservice@pricedex.com [mailto:pdxservice@pricedex.com] On Behalf Of Autocare Association Part Term Attribute Submissions
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 9:45 AM
To: john.smith@anywhere.com
Subject: Verification of Your Attribute Submission
Thank you for your submission of attribute candidates to the Part Term Attribute System. Your submission must be validated by clicking on the link below, before they will be sent to review.
Please click on the link below to validate your request
http://qasptattributes.pricedex.com/forms/frmUserVeify.aspx?sid=98288

Figure 22 – EXAMPLE E-MAIL VERIFICATION MESSAGE – click on the link in the e-mail to verify that your submission is valid. You will be returned to the Part Attribute Management system, and the screen will display a 'success' message.

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